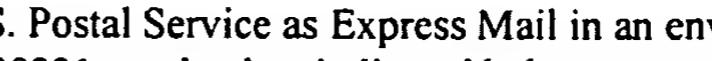


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<p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Patent Application, Commission of Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date indicated below.</p> <p><u>January 18, 2002</u>  <b>Date of Signature and Mail Deposit</b></p> <p>  <u>Terrill Williams</u></p>	

Commissioner for Patents  
BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
Washington, D.C. 20231

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows:

### In the specification:

On page 4, please add the following paragraph before the Background of the Invention section:

## **--Cross Reference to Related Applications**

This application is a continuation application of Serial No. 09/432,443, filed on November 2, 1999, which in turn is a continuation application of 08/949,091, filed October 10, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,004,639. Each of the aforementioned patent applications is incorporated herein by reference. --